



South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



LEADERS FROM SDDVA AND SDDOM ATTEND SWO ANNUAL POW WOW

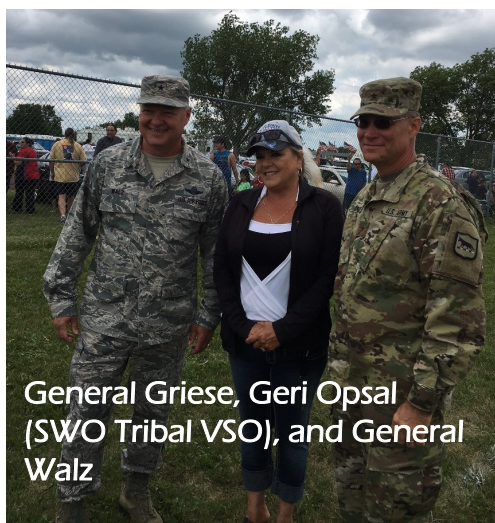
SDDVA Secretary Larry Zimmerman and Generals Griese and Walz, of the SDNG, attended the 150th Annual Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Wacipi (SWO Powwow) on Friday, June 30, at the SWO Ceremonial Grounds in Agency Village.

The Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate



Sec. Zimmerman thanks Basil Robertson (WWII Veteran) for his service.

During the pow wow a special tribute was conducted to honor veterans and all military personnel who served this great country.



General Griese, Geri Opsal (SWO Tribal VSO), and General Walz

Wacipi is the oldest powwow in South Dakota and the second oldest in the nation (started in 1867).



SWO TVSO Geri Opsal and SWO Chairman Flute

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SDNG UNIT SUPPORTS LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL AGENCIES

While most South Dakota Army National Guard units focus their yearly training on missions for a combat theater, one aviation unit is honing its skills to support homeland security.

The Rapid City-based Detachment 1, Company B, 1-112th Aviation Regiment, using its UH-72 Lakota helicopters, serves alongside local, state and federal agencies in support of security defense requirements.

"We've spent a lot of years training at local exercises, including Golden Coyote, and a few years ago at the Sturgis Rally," said Capt. John Barnes, 1-112th commander. "In these exercises we do a lot of law enforcement support. These agencies know our abilities, so they are able to set us up with missions that allow us to gain experience."

Composed of a variety of technical experts including pilots, crew chiefs, mechanics and operations support personnel, the nearly 30-member unit can provide aerial reconnaissance, search and rescue support, and counterdrug assistance.

Supporting various agencies on homeland security missions gives unit members a unique experience, increases the unit's capabilities, and builds relationships with federal, state and local government agencies, Barnes said.

"The best way that our crew can stay proficient on our equipment is by going out and doing missions," Barnes added.

Serving and supporting law enforcement missions is not specific to the Black Hills or South Dakota as the 112th will go where aircraft are needed.

"The greatest experience that we received as a unit was when we deployed to the U.S. Southern

Border to support U.S. Customs and Border Protection," Barnes said. "We had missions every night where we found out what works, what doesn't, and we have a hard time recreating that here in the state."

The unit is looking forward to future opportunities.

"I am ready to deploy with a full unit, doing all of our jobs together and being able to support missions," said Barnes. "We get everyone in one place, spending 24 hours a day together and we are all doing it to accomplish the same mission."



VA SECRETARY SHULKIN UNVEILS WORLD'S MOST ADVANCED COMMERCIAL PROSTHESIS

United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs David J. Shulkin, M.D. unveiled the world's most advanced commercial prosthetic — the Life Under Kinetic Evolution (LUKE) arm — during a visit to the VA New York Harbor Health Care System's Manhattan campus.

The event also included a demonstration of the technology by the first veteran amputees to receive the device.

A collaboration between the VA, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and industry, the LUKE Arm is the product of nearly eight years of testing and research, and holds the potential to significantly benefit veterans and others with upper-extremity amputations. Unlike less-advanced prosthetics, the entire LUKE arm can move as one unit, reducing the labor-intensive process of controlling one joint at a time. The LUKE arm also features the first commercially available powered shoulder, with up to 10 powered degrees of freedom.

Simply stated, the LUKE arm will help restore veterans' ability to perform a variety of one and two-handed activities. With accompanying rehabilitation, recipients can use the LUKE arm to perform tasks, such as drinking from a glass, picking up small pieces of food to eat, cooking or gift-wrapping presents.

"The LUKE arm is a shining example of why VA exists," Secretary Shulkin said. "There is no commercial market for this type of technology. The patient population is simply too small to motivate private companies to pursue these types of advancements on their own. This is why VA and its research efforts — efforts that could not be replicated in the private sector — are so important."

Fred Downs and Artie McAuley are the first Veterans to receive the LUKE arm.

"The LUKE arm is a great tool, especially for high-level amputees like me," McAuley said. "I'm amazed by the technology, and the level of flexibility and full range of motion, which allows me to do much more independently."

Fred Downs added, "The technology has definitely been an improvement in my ability to perform day to day activities, most notably in grasping. It's useful when an opposing hand is needed, in the workshop or while cooking."

In fiscal year 2016, the VA provided care for nearly 90,000 Veterans with amputations, more than 20,000 of whom had upper-limb involvement.



MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY ZIMMERMAN

DRAFT OR NO DRAFT, THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE SHINES ON!

For the past few weeks, there has been a lot of buzz about the NBA draft. Strategists and newscasters chattered about the likes of Markelle Fultz, Lonzo Ball, Josh Jackson and Jayson Tatum. Who would draft them and what package would be offered? Numerous sports venues use the draft process to allocate talented players to their teams.

As I listened to that buzz word “draft” used over and over, I couldn’t help but think about our military draft. From 1940 until 1973, during both peacetime and periods of conflict, men were drafted to fill vacancies in the United States Armed Forces. At one time, 366 blue plastic capsules containing birth dates were placed in a large glass jar and drawn by hand to assign order-of-call numbers to all men within the 18-26 age range. This process was not quite as spicy as the sports draft used today, but the country was informed of the order of the numbers drawn just as today the media informs us of player drafts.

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if our soldiers that were drafted would receive \$20 million for a four –five-year contract?

In our military realm, we live in a world where there is no bonus if you get to the front line (play offs). There’s no Super Bowl ring when you win the war! There is no steak and wine after you complete your mission. No condos! No yachts! No endorsements! No audience/fans for their performance.

I wonder how many professional athletes would chow down on an MRE or live in the conditions our troops do?

For athletes it’s the game, practice, team activities, summer leagues, and community involvement. They are performing in facilities that have controlled environments — perhaps worrying about a hotdog wrapper or two that gets on the field or water that gets spilled on the court. Much different than the environment our service members are exposed to – blasts, IED’s, gas fumes, arm-to-arm combat, staring the enemy face-to-face at gunpoint, and deployments away from family for a year at a time or more.

Sports drafts take the best of the best and trickle down to the lesser known athletes as the draft process continues, but athletes still receive hundreds of thousands of dollars in their contract.

Today’s service members go in on their own for a starting pay of \$24,000. Our men and women in uniform serve to serve! Duty, honor, and country drive the enlistees to defend their country!

Thank you to all the men and women who have proudly stepped up to serve this great country.

Larry Zimmerman, Secretary
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs





The South Dakota Humanities Council celebrates literature, promotes civil conversation, and tells the stories that define our state.

2017 Veterans Writing Prize

Call for submissions.

Share your story with South Dakota.

Who: Veterans of or current service members in any branch of the United States military currently living in South Dakota.

What: A story. New, unpublished material on any aspect of the military experience. Individuals may submit up to five pages of material. Material can be in any form: poetry, prose, fiction, creative non-fiction, etc. Whatever format you choose to share your story, please write as creatively as possible. Consider using creative comparisons and vivid sensory details in your submission.

Include a cover page with the author's name, address, military branch/service dates, and the words "Veterans Writing Prize Submission." In addition to the cover page, submissions may be up to 5 pages (1-inch margin, single-spaced paragraphs, and 12 point font).

When: The submission period is May 1st, 2017, through August 1st, 2017.

Finalists will have the option to publish their work on the SD Humanities Council website.

Three finalists will be invited to the South Dakota Festival of Books for a reading at an event with Pulitzer Prize winner and contest judge, Robert Olen Butler, who will announce the winner at the event. The SDHC will pay state-rate mileage to finalists to attend the Festival event on Sept. 23, 2017 in Deadwood. Writers do not need to be available to attend the Festival to submit work; a representative can read the author's work on the finalist's behalf. One finalist will be selected as the winner and will receive a cash prize of \$1,000, second place will receive \$500 and third will receive \$250.

Send submissions to:

Kyle Schaefer, Program and Development Officer
South Dakota Humanities Council
1215 Trail Ridge Road, Suite A
Brookings, SD 57006

OR send in digital format as a single PDF to kyle@sdhumanities.org

With questions, contact Kyle Schaefer at the South Dakota Humanities Council, kyle@sdhumanities.org, or 605-688-4530.

WELLNESS DAY

Test your skills to see how you match up against America's finest soldiers!
Come show your support of the South Dakota Army National Guard.

Who: Supporters of American Soldiers

What: 2 min. pushups, 2 min. sit-ups, 2 mile run

Where: Steamboat Park Band Shelter—Pierre

When: Saturday—July 15th at 8:30 am (CT)

Why: To support our troops and to test your individual physical fitness level

SDARNG Band SGT Rock will be playing following the pit test.

For more information contact Mike at 605-773-3449.



REGISTRATION
\$20 PER PERSON
BEGINS AT 10AM
PARADE DEPARTS AT HIGH NOON
DOWN BROOKINGS MAIN AVENUE

\$500 BEST HAND
PLUS OTHER GREAT PRIZES

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ALL VEHICLES WELCOME

PROCEEDS
BENEFIT DAV HOSPITAL
TRANSPORTATION FUND

QUESTIONS
CSM (RET) ROBERT FOSTER
(605) 690-1691

SFC ERIC KINSLOW
(605) 415-1759

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SEPTEMBER 2, 2017
NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY
300 5TH ST. S., BROOKINGS, SD

Upcoming Events

Jul 8—DAV 5th Annual Poker Run—Eagles Club—Aberdeen—10:00 am (CT)
Jul 8—Canaries Military Appreciation Night at the Ballgame—6:00 pm (CT)
Jul 14—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—Building 145—Room 108—Fort Meade—10:00 am (MT)
Jul 19—Purple Heart Run—Sioux Falls Ford (4901 W. 26th Street) - 10:00 am (CT)
Jul 19—VA Town Hall Meeting—Huron Community Center—5:00 pm (CT)
July 20—Purple Heart Run—McKie Ford (2010 E. Mall Drive) - Rapid City—10:00 am (MT)
Jul 21-22—Veterans Rally—W.H. Lyons Fairgrounds—Sioux Falls
Jul 22—PVA Annual Poker Run—Thirsty Duck Bar and Grill (945 S. Marion Rd) Sioux Falls— 11:00 am (CT)
Jul 22—American Legion State Commander Hugh Holmes Homecoming—Post 18—11:00 am (CT)
Aug 5—American Legion State Auxiliary President Elvira Rose Homecoming—Post 17—1:00 pm (CT)
Aug 10—Veterans Town Hall Meeting—Senior Center—Aberdeen—6:00 pm (CT)
Aug 10-13—The Vietnam Wall—I-90 Information Center—Chamberlain
Aug 14-17—SDDVA Annual Benefits School—Pierre—Ramkota
Aug 16—Sioux Falls VA Show and Shine—VA Parking Lot—5:30 pm (CT)
Aug 31—Veterans Day at the South Dakota State Fair
Sept 2—DAV and 727th 13th Annual Poker Run—Brookings
Sept 9—PVA Trap Shoot—Crooks Gun Club—Sioux Falls
Sept 11—VA Black Hills Mental Health Summit
Sept 15—POW-MIA Program—Veterans Memorial Park—Sioux Falls—6:30 pm
Sept 22—Homeless Veterans Stand Down—VFW Post—Sioux Falls—9:00 am (CT)
Sept 24—Gold Star Mothers Day
Sept 25-28—National Women Veterans Art Exhibit—VA Sioux Falls
Sept 26-27—Aim to Win—Hunters Pointe Shooting Complex—Humboldt
Sept 28—Women Veterans Conference—Central Baptist Church—Sioux Falls
Oct 6-8—Fall VFW Conference—Oacoma—Cedar Shores
Nov 9-13—VFW Disabled Veterans Hunt—Gettysburg

2018

Jan 28-29—VFW Legislative Conference—Ft. Pierre
Feb 16-18 American Legion Mid Winter Conference—Oacoma
Jun 7-10—American Legion State Convention—Spearfish
Jun 14-17—VFW State Convention—Sioux Falls

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